

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
January 19, 2007
Quileute Information Center
19628 US Highway 101
Forks, Washington

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
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Reviewed by SAC Secretary

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent

Approved by SAC

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
January 19, 2007

Members Present:

Terrie Klinger, Research (Chair)
Mel Moon, Quileute Tribe
Fan Tsao, Conservative Alternate
Martha Hurd, Washington DNR (Secy.)
Norm Davis, Washington Dept. of Ecology
Cat Hoffman, Olympic National Park
Bob Bohlman, Marine Industry
Hayden Street, U.S. Navy
Mark D'Andrea, US Coast Guard
Gene Woodwick, Education
Ellen Matheny, Education, Alternate
Diane Schostak, Tourism
Michael Lenox, Tourism Alternate
Teresa Scott, Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Doug Fricke, Commercial Fishing Alt.
Kevin Ryan, US Fish & Wildlife

Staff

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent
Andy Palmer, Coordinator
George Galasso, Asst. Mgr.
Cheryl Sinclair, Recording Secretary

Guests/Public Attendees:

David Hudson, Hoh Tribe
Jody Kennedy, Surfrider Foundation

Welcome

Terrie Klinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mel Moon, Director of Natural Resources for the Quileute Tribe, welcomed the Sanctuary Advisory Council. He announced that Jay Burns who had been representing the tribe on the advisory council had taken a job in Seattle and that he and Katie Kruger will be representing the tribe for the time being until a replacement for Jay can be found. He also noted that salmon returns for last season were very low suggesting that some large-scale changes may be in the works and there is the need for attention to ecosystem management in addition to the current focus on single species.

Agenda/Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the agenda as proposed. Approval of the November meeting minutes was tabled until after lunch to allow time for everyone to review them. Teresa Scott **moved** to adopt the minutes of the November meeting; **seconded** by Fan Tsao. Bob Bohlman had one clarification, that there are currently 200 - 250 tugs (rather than 100) operating in NW Washington and British Columbia, but felt there was no need for a correction to the minutes. **Motion passed** with no opposed and no abstentions.

New Members

Andy Palmer reported there were four applications for the education seat; the Committee made

recommendations to Carol and materials have been sent to Washington, D.C. for approval. Currently there are two applications for the fishing seat with a possibility of another application coming in. The new members should be seated by March. There will have to be a Federal Register notice to fill the alternate member-at-large seat. The Executive Committee will be reviewing that.

Big Eddy

Carol Bernthal gave a brief history on the Big Eddy Marine Ecosystem Initiative. A steering committee of about 15 was formed including representatives from, among others, Makah Tribe, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, Parks Canada, Environment Canada, OCNMS, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Olympic Coast Alliance. Two symposiums have been held, one in 2004 to look at what research has been done on oceanography, fisheries, shell fish, and the second symposium was held in October 2006 at Tofino, BC, to focus on the uses and values of this area, some of the threats and opportunities in terms of conserving the area. Major concerns include: oil spills; the need to monitor ecosystem level interactions and how to build and expand some of that into future research plans. The steering committee will sort through the many recommendations and summarize the proceedings. Their report, due in March, will be posted on the Big Eddy web site.

Member Report (Power Point Presentation)

Cat Hoffman's presentation focused on numbers of visitors to Olympic National Park. Because of multiple entrances into the park, it is difficult to obtain accurate counts, and the park looks at number of "visits" versus individual visitors. The Park hopes to have a final General Management Plan by the end of the year. There was discussion regarding education; balancing public use of some areas versus limiting access to areas to retain remoteness and protect areas if impacts become apparent and discussion about long-term ecological monitoring program (including the coastal areas), as well as the challenge of how to present the need for preservation but still encourage the public to enjoy outdoor recreation. The Wilderness Management Plan will focus heavily on limits of acceptable change.

Pacific Coast Fisheries Management Council

In Steve Joner's absence, Terrie Klinger and Carol Bernthal reported on the roundtable discussions held in November, discussing relationship between SACs and the Fisheries Management Councils in every region in the U.S. The Chair or designate for the Chair and Superintendent (and others) from each of the five west coast sanctuaries attended, and it was well attended by fisheries council participants. A majority of the discussion centered on cooperation on research and how to get that information before PFMC and the need for good communication. Sanctuaries will try to have consistent representation at the Council process and try to involve PFMC staff in the Advisory Council process via mailings/updates.

There were lengthy discussions regarding sanctuary representation at PFMC meetings and how to best get PFMC activities of interest before the SAC on a regular basis. Teresa Scott **moved**

that the sanctuary include in the SAC meeting packets the PFMC one or two-page summary decision document. **Seconded** by Mel Moon and **passed** with no opposition and no abstentions.

Carol expressed gratitude to Steve Joner for his leadership and effort to establish communication between the sanctuaries and PFMC.

Public Comment - No public comment.

Ocean Policy Work Group (Power Point Presentation)

George Galasso reported on the findings of the Governor's Ocean Policy Work Group, focusing on the 15 key recommendations out of the 61 recommendations made. George felt the 15 key recommendations align very well with what sanctuary staff view as important areas for the state, as well as the sanctuary, to be working on. Some of the areas which the sanctuary could work closely with the State include habitat mapping; derelict fishing gear program; NOAA's Ocean Literacy program and various education programs; resource assessment; helping to develop a common research plan and identify important research questions and areas for monitoring. There was emphasis on getting another doppler radar station on the coast. George considers the work done by the Ocean Policy Work Group to be an important resource for OCNMS in their management plan review process. Teresa Scott requested that the Ocean Policy Work Group reports be made available to SAC members.

There was discussion about biogeographic assessments which have been done from the Mexican border to northern California and that NCOS, a division of NOAA, is looking at processing satellite imagery from northern California to the Canadian border, with a focus on Olympic Coast. Terrie explained the idea is to have remote sensing data from satellite data, buoy data, and benthic data gathered together in one product. This data would not necessarily be interpreted but would be available to individual researchers. It would be available to the sanctuary; but other researchers and educators would have access to it as a publicly-available product. This NCOS study may be linked with the State process. Carol suggested a presentation on the biogeographic assessment at the next SAC meeting.

Coastal Geographic Response Plans

Norm Davis reviewed the definition of GRP (geographical response plan) and emphasized the plans are meant to minimize damage, not necessarily prevent damage. It is important to have information in the plans as to what assets are in that region so the responders know to look for certain things and try to protect those assets as best they can. DOE is updating response plans for the Outer Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca. Public meetings/workshops are planned in Forks on February 28 and Port Angeles on March 1. At those meetings DOE will be seeking to identify resources at risk in those geographic areas and identify ways to minimize damage, identify strategies and identify resources. There is a separate GRP for Grays Harbor which is

not being updated at this time, but Norm will communicate Gene Woodwick's request for a meeting in the Grays Harbor/Ocean Shores area to Todd Hass. Carol indicated the GRPs are intended as an emergency, quick response in the first 24 to 48 hours until the full incident command structure is in place.

Discussion included: a request to update environmental sensitivity index maps for the Outer Coast which support the GRP; whether the advisory council should comment on proposed updates to GRPs; recommend to DOE possible field testing to ensure proper resources are identified and that response plans will work as outlined.

With no motion put forward as to formal comments or recommendations, this will be put on the March agenda for an update.

Superintendent's Report

Carol Bernthal indicated the sanctuary is in a holding pattern because a budget hasn't been approved. Until a budget is approved, it is difficult to report on an annual operating plan. If the budget is approved before the March meeting, Carol will report at that time. At this point the Sanctuary is receiving a quarterly allocation of funds pending budget approval.

Lake Ozette sockeye recovery plan - sanctuary staff met with Rosemary Furfey, ESA Recovery Coordinator for Lake Ozette Sockeye, and gave a summary of the type of oceanographic work the sanctuary has been doing. The sanctuary agreed to share general information regarding trends which may affect productivity of species and to review the marine components of the recovery plan. Sanctuary staff asked that as the recovery group identifies marine research needs, they should share that information with the sanctuary to see if the sanctuary could work with them in the future on those issues.

The resolution letter regarding the year round tug at Neah Bay was forwarded to Vice Admiral Lautenbacher and to the Governor, but there has been no response from either.

Carol reported the National Marine Sanctuary Act is coming up for reauthorization in 2007. There was discussion of the recommendations made by the SAC in 2003, including better recognition of the Tribes and increasing the number of voting members.

Intergovernmental Policy Council

In Jim Woods' absence, Carol reported (with input from Mel Moon and David Hudson) on formation of the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council for the purpose of a government to government forum with the sanctuary, the tribes, state agencies which have management authority and jurisdiction on the Outer Coast in order to discuss coastal issues that affect the tribes, the state and OCNMS. A Memorandum of Understanding and charter have been developed, and there will be a signing on January 30 in Olympia with the OCNMS, Governor Gregoire and representatives from the four coastal tribes. This is the first of its type in

the national marine sanctuary program.

Public Comment

Jody Kennedy gave background information on Surfrider Foundation. She indicated there are about 100 volunteer members on the peninsula. One of the ways they have been active has been with the coastal cleanup.

Aqua Energy Work Group Update

Fan Tsao reported that the work group was formed to look at the Preliminary Draft Environment Assessment of Aqua Energy wave energy development. The PDEA has been submitted and accepted by FERC, and between February and May FERC will be developing an EA. It is within that time frame the advisory council can comment. When the draft EA is ready in May, there will be another chance for public comment. Some of the environmental issues include monitoring and maintenance schedule for wave energy buoys and how the site was selected, potential impacts of electromagnetic fields caused by the electrical current; acoustic impact; characterization of the marine mammal impact in the PDEA; marine vegetation data used in the PDEA; engineering aspects of the wave generating buoys. There are a lot of questions regarding impacts which probably won't be answered until the trial project is put in place. Work group time line is to come up with a draft response for the March AC meeting. Fan suggested that a representative of Aqua Energy give a presentation at a future AC meeting.

Teresa Scott indicated there are fishing closures proposed around the test site, which affect members of the SAC. Martha Hurd added that on January 29 state and federal agencies will be meeting to get a sense of timelines in the permitting process.

Doug Fricke and Hayden Street will join the work group.

Meeting Comments/Future Agenda/Adjourn

There was discussion about the report of Professor Boris Worm's predictions regarding depletion of fisheries by 2048 versus the review by Professor Hilborn from UW. Fan indicated she read both reports and gave a brief synopsis of both. She will send the reports to Andy who can forward them to anyone who wants copies.

Agenda topics for March meeting:

- Update on GRPs and possible action

- Aqua Energy - consider taking action on recommendations of work group

- Aqua Energy - possible presentation

- NCOS biographic assessment - possible presentation

- Terrie - report on climate change workshop and west coast region case study

Future agenda topics:

Coastal monitoring program in the Park - possible presentation
Marine Protected Areas - draft framework

The next meeting is March 16. Location will be established. Proposed meeting dates: May 18; possible teleconference call in July (July 13); September 21; November 2. No objections were expressed to the proposed dates.

Terrie Klinger and Teresa Scott will participate in a climate change workshop in Washington, D.C. and in a conference call between the five west coast chairs to discuss the case study that the west coast region will present at the spring National Meeting of Chairs and Coordinators.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10.